



**CALIFORNIA ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS
HON. TED LIEU, CHAIR**

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**ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS
ANNOUNCES LEADERSHIP TRANSITION**

SACRAMENTO – The Asian Pacific Islander (API) Legislative Caucus elected Assemblymember Warren T. Furutani (D-South LA County) and Assemblymember Mary Hayashi (D-Hayward) to serve as the new Chair and Vice Chair, respectively, starting September 11, 2009. The API Legislative Caucus was established in 2001 with the mission of representing and advocating for the interests of the diverse API communities of California. Additionally, the Caucus seeks to increase API participation and representation in all levels of government.

“Assemblymembers Warren Furutani and Mary Hayashi bring an extensive history of API community work and advocacy to the API Legislative Caucus,” stated Assemblymember Ted Lieu (D-Torrance), who serves as the current Chair of the API Legislative Caucus, “I look forward to the great work they will be making on behalf of the API community as the Caucus leadership.”

Elected as Caucus Chair in 2007, Assemblymember Lieu will be serving out his term until the end of the current Legislative Session. Under his leadership, API representation in the California State Legislature reached a historic high of eleven Members. Working with the Black Legislative Caucus and the Latino Legislative Caucus, Assemblymember Lieu played a significant role in increasing judicial and political appointments of minorities and in securing a historic agreement with top foundations to increase funding to minority communities. Additionally, Assemblymember Lieu took the lead in 2008 to reverse the Ladies Professional Golf Association’s proposed racist ban on women golfers who did not speak English. As chair of the API Legislative Caucus, Assemblymember Lieu worked with community partners to bring together over 330 community leaders and advocates to the API Policy Summit.

“I look forward to serving the API community as Chair of the API Legislative Caucus,” stated Assemblymember Furutani, “The Caucus has played a critical role in our community under Assemblymember Lieu’s stewardship, and I hope to continue the standard he has set for the Caucus and for our community.”

“Assemblymember Lieu has done an extraordinary job encouraging and achieving higher Asian Pacific Islander involvement,” added Assemblymember Hayashi, who is the first Korean American woman to be elected to the California State Legislature. “In harnessing this activism, Assemblymember Lieu has been able to channel the diverse talents of Asian Pacific Islanders into civic engagement.”

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